

the Birmingham Campaign and the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963. Though his participation in the movement resulted in him being beaten, arrested, and fired from his job, he continued to fight for justice and equality for all, planning strategies for public protests following the shooting of five African Americans who had been protesting at a supermarket during the 1960s and filing a lawsuit on behalf of the youth suspended from school during the demonstration to ensure that they could be re-instated.

As a result of his tenacity and dedication, Bishop Woods was appointed by Dr. King as the SCLC City Convener for the Birmingham Ministers Leadership Conference. In this position, Bishop Woods was responsible for educating ministers concerning Black history, picketing, housing, direct non-violent protesting, voter registration, and negotiations to ensure that they were fully equipped to continue leading their congregations throughout the movement.

Apart from his work as a Civil Rights leader, Bishop Woods has continued to play a vital role in the Birmingham community through his various community affiliations and as the pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, where he has led the congregation for the past 34 years. Bishop Woods has served in multiple capacities including, board member of the Birmingham Board of Education at Parker High School in Discipline and Administration; evening supervisor for the Park High Community School; counselor, group worker, and center director for the Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity; and board member of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. His additional community affiliations include former president of the New Era Baptist State Convention of Alabama; former ViceChair of the Board of Trustees of the Birmingham Easonian Baptist Bible College; and former National Chaplain of the SCLC. Today, at the age of 80, he continues to champion the cause for human rights serving currently as Vice President of the National Southern Christian Leadership Conference and as a member of the National Board of Directors of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. On a personal note, the contributions that Bishop Woods made to ensure the equal rights of all Americans during the Civil Rights Movement are truly exemplary. To call him an icon of the movement is an understatement. His unwavering commitment to improving the lives of Black Alabamians has earned him a unique place in history. It was because of his courage, sacrifice, and conviction that so many of us now have the leadership positions we do today. We owe Bishop Woods a debt that we cannot repay. I hope the knowledge that his legacy of extraordinary service will live on and the many people he has impacted will be and a source of great pride during his retirement. Thank you for being such a powerful agent for change. On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary leadership and service of Bishop Calvin W. Woods, Sr., and his contributions to not only the community of Birmingham as President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Birmingham Chapter but to the world as a Civil Rights leader.

IN HONOR OF THE MARRIAGE OF
NICOLE YADON AND KYLE SMITH

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 25, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nicole Yadon and Kyle Smith on the occasion of their marriage. This special day is worthy of commendation.

Nicole (Nikki) Yadon is a Michigan native and University of Michigan graduate. She met her husband, Kyle Smith, in 2013 while both were students at the University of Michigan. They had their first official date at The Prickly Pear in Ann Arbor. After Kyle graduated from Michigan in 2015, Kyle and Nikki dated long distance for a year and a half while Nikki was still in school. They travelled back and forth from Ann Arbor to San Francisco, Columbus, San Antonio, and Washington, D.C. to be together—they made sure to visit all of the best diners in each city along the way.

Nikki has always had a love for politics and government. She interned at the Democratic Governors' Association in the summer of 2016, then for State Rep. Donna Lasinski's campaign in the fall of 2016, culminating with an internship in my office. After interning in the district office from January through May 2017 and graduating from the University of Michigan, Nikki moved to Washington, D.C. to continue her career in politics and worked for the people of Michigan's 12th District on Capitol Hill from June through August 2017. Since then, she has since worked for the Democratic Governors' Association in a variety of capacities, and currently serves as Director of Events.

In September 2019, two years after Nikki and Kyle moved in together and became dog parents to Bandit, their favorite border collie, Kyle proposed to Nikki at her parents' house in Troy, Michigan. Through working from home together during COVID in 2020, their love for each other continued to grow. Kyle and Nikki officially got married in a small, COVID-safe ceremony in Washington, D.C. on May 22, 2021. They are looking forward to spending their 11-month anniversary with friends and family at the rescheduled wedding celebration in Newport, RI on April 30, 2022.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Nicole and Kyle. I join with the couple's family and friends in extending my best wishes to them on this special day and wish them happiness and blessings in the years to come.

HONORING TRINITY AME CHURCH,
LANSING

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 25, 2022

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of Lansing's African-American faith community: Trinity AME Church. For over 150 years, the area's oldest black church has knit itself into the fabric of its community, serving folks in ways that are too many to count.

Trinity was founded in 1866 with only 21 members, and today it boasts a congregation

more than 400 strong. Its roots in the Lansing community run deep, having been cultivated by generations of devoted congregants. Take a look around the pews on a Sunday and you'll see folks who have been coming to Trinity for decades. They come to say a prayer or chat with an old friend—to enjoy those little moments of community and humanity.

Some have been members of Trinity AME for decades, like former MSU Athletic Director, and 2017 inductee into the MSU Hall of Fame, Clarence Underwood. He first joined in 1958 while studying at MSU, and never looked back.

Trinity's impact reaches far beyond the walls of the church building off West Holmes Road. From youth programs, scholarships, clothing drives and more, Trinity and its congregation are devoted to supporting the people of Lansing. The congregation has also reached out beyond their immediate community, like helping the residents of Flint during its water crisis.

With such a spirited and steadfast congregation, it is no surprise that Trinity is headed up by such a vibrant pastor. Pastor Lila Martin is the first woman to take the pulpit, and she has risen to the occasion.

From getting kids involved in the services, to returning the church to its role as a vital part of the community, she is shepherding her congregation into a new era in its long history.

Pastor Martin ends her sermons with, "Maybe you're without a church home, then I invite you to allow Trinity to be your church home, we will accept you." Her steadfast effort to open Trinity's doors to all who may need it is felt each and every week.

With in-person services returning and the congregation stronger than ever, the future looks bright for Trinity. Its history, members, and presence in the community is an essential part of Lansing, and I am proud that its impact will be forever known.

RECOGNIZING THE VICTIMS OF
THE BAKU AND SUMGAI PO-
GROMS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 25, 2022

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 34th anniversary of the Sumgait pogrom and the 32nd anniversary of the Baku pogrom.

Hundreds of Armenian civilians living in the city of Sumgait in Azerbaijan suffered horrific acts of violence when they were indiscriminately killed, raped, maimed, and burned alive in a pogrom that started on February 27, 1988. Almost two years later, a seven-day pogrom broke out in Baku during which Armenians were beaten, murdered, and expelled from the city beginning January 12, 1990. Over 90 Armenian civilians were killed, over 700 were injured, and countless other victims were permanently displaced by the ethnic violence that followed.

The Azerbaijani Government was complicit in each of these atrocities by using violent rhetoric in rallies leading up to the pogrom and by doing nothing to halt the ensuing violence against Armenian citizens. Azerbaijan has taken steps over the last two decades to cover up these crimes against humanity and dismiss